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Press Release

SECRETARY, CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SELECT NEW DSS DIRECTOR

Lifelong county resident described as 'dynamic and creative' leader

Baltimore, MD (April 1, 2004) – Dr. Rebecca Bolton Bridgett, Director of the Charles County Human Services Partnership and Chairman of the Charles County Board of Education has been selected Director of the Charles County Department of Social Services.

Department of Human Resources Secretary Christopher J. McCabe, Charles County Commission President Murray Levy, and the Charles County Commissioners announced the appointment today, completing an extensive search for a leader to direct services to the county's most needy citizens. Dr. Bridgett will assume her new post on April 28.

"Dr. Bridgett is a dynamic and creative individual who has a strong record of creating public-private partnerships," Secretary McCabe said. "She is skilled in both academic and clinical approaches to human service issues. She is the ideal person to advance the agency's mission at this time."

Dr. Bridgett has led the Charles County Human Services Partnership since October 2002, overseeing an agency that has merged the functions of the county's Local Management Board and the Core Service Agency. In that role, she was responsible for following procurement procedures and other county and State guidelines. During her career, she has supervised various programs supporting children, youth and families, and has also served on the Charles County School Board since 2002, (serving as chairman this year).

County Commission President Murray Levy thanked Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. and Secretary McCabe for “their cooperation during transition to new leadership at Charles County DSS.” He also thanked the Charles County Board of Social Services.

“We had a great search process for this important post and picked a superb person,” Commissioner Levy said. “Rebecca will do a wonderful job for our citizens.”

Secretary McCabe expressed gratitude toward the county commissioners and the Charles County Board of Social Services and pledged to continue to work closely with local government on issues involving Charles County DSS. He also praised DHR Deputy Secretary Elizabeth Seale for admirably serving as acting director while he and the county sought a permanent director.

Long active in the community, Dr. Bridgett was a crisis outreach worker from May 2002 to October 2002, helping families cope with the tornado that devastated LaPlata. She provided personal outreach to individuals, distributed literature to businesses and community leaders, provided psycho-educational services to citizens and conducted community training to help children cope with trauma, grief and loss. She has also served on numerous child welfare committees.

Dr. Bridgett earned her Doctor of Education degree from NOVA Southeastern University in 2000. She earned a Master of Arts degree in Special Education from Appalachian State University in 1989. In addition, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Communication from Campbell University in 1985. She is a part-time faculty member at the College of Southern Maryland, teaching the course, “Understanding and Guiding Young Children’s Behavior.”

Previously, she was Director of the PRYDE Treatment Foster Care Program, Director of Admissions and Quality Assurance at Alternatives for Youth and Families in Charlotte Hall, MD, and a Teaching Parent for the Methodist Home for Children in Wilmington, NC.